



**Evaluation Centre *for* Complex
Health Interventions**

— MAKING EVALUATIONS MATTER —

THE THEORY OF CHANGE OF TEASDALE-CORTI

July 31st 2012

THE THEORY OF CHANGE OF TEASDALE-CORTI

This is an initial theory of change report for Teasdale-Corti. This report will be updated as the evaluation proceeds. The report consists of the following 5 parts:

- 1) An introduction to a theory of change
- 2) The program logic of Teasdale-Corti
- 3) Key activities
- 4) Key assumptions and risks
- 5) Data to support theory of change
- 6) Key next steps

1. INTRODUCTION

A theory of change describes the relationships between activities, outputs and short- and long- term outcomes (Kubisch et al., 2010). Pawson et al. (2004: 4) provide a helpful description of what it means to think theoretically about interventions:

Interventions like Teasdale-Corti are always based on a hypothesis that postulates ‘If we deliver a program in this way or we manage services like so, then this will bring about some improved outcome’ ... Interventions are always inserted into existing social systems that are thought to underpin and account for present problems. Improvements in patterns of behavior, events or conditions are then generated, it is supposed, by bringing fresh inputs to that system in the hope of changing and re-balancing it.

A theory of change is especially relevant for complex interventions (Patton, 2010) given the long implementation chain (Pawson, 2006; Pawson et al., 2004) implied in the process by which such interventions attempt to impact long-term outcomes, such as health behaviour change. The theory of change should help identify conditions that can trigger favorable changes in outcomes. As described in Pawson (2006: 74), ‘[w]hether programs work depends on how they are implemented, to whom and in what circumstances they are applied, and on what precisely they are expected to achieve.’ Ideally, the theory of change of Teasdale-Corti will help explain the ‘tortuous pathways’ that a successful implementation will need to travel.

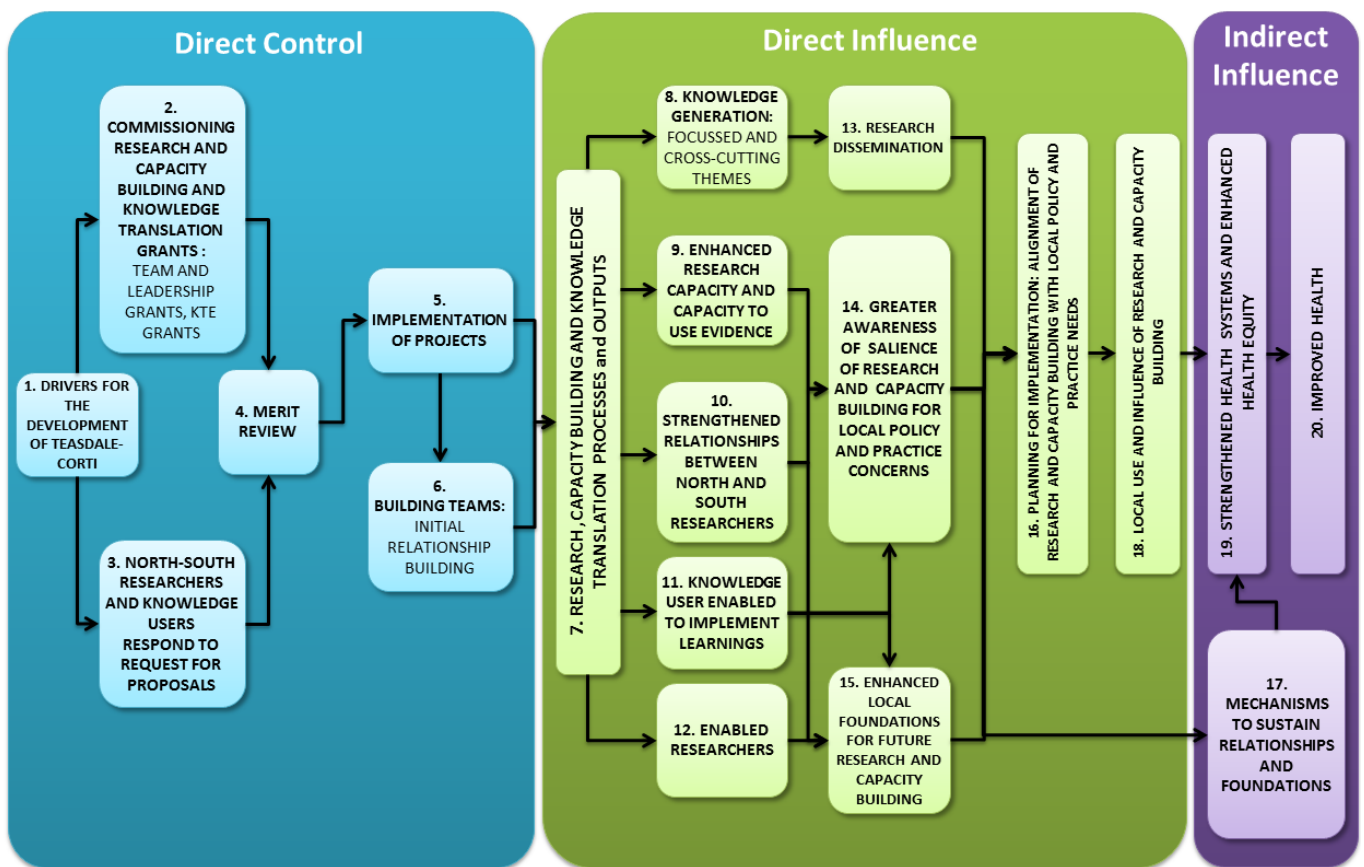
The theory of change will also serve to facilitate a measurement system for the Teasdale-Corti program in order to better understand which aspects of the program contributed to positive outcomes.

2. THE PROGRAM LOGIC OF TEASDALE-CORTI

A logic model provides a “visual representation of a plausible and sensible method of how a program will work” (Renger & Titcomb, 2002, p. 493). Typically, this involves a representation of the “links between activities, outcomes, and contexts of the initiative” (Connell & Kubisch, 1998, p. 16).

There were various sources utilized in developing the program logic model. These include a review of documents, specifically proposals and final reports, and discussions with program staff at IDRC and CIHR.

The logic model helps frame a discussion and will be further developed iteratively over time. Thus this is intended to be an initial logic model. Each of the program activities and the assumptions underlying the



linkages are described in Section 5. Figure 1 above describes an initial representation of the program logic of Teasdale-Corti.

3. KEY ACTIVITIES OF TEADALE-CORTI LOGIC MODEL

Key activities of Teasdale-Corti include:

DRIVERS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEASDALE-CORTI

1. DRIVERS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEASDALE-CORTI

The Canadian government has committed to an increase in official development assistance, with an emphasis on a knowledge-based approach to assist low to middle income countries. As a result, Teasdale Corti is driven by an interest in strengthening Canada’s contribution to solving pressing global health challenges through supporting research-based partnerships in their development of intervention programs and public policies. The program has been developed through a partnership between Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), Health Canada (HC) and the International Development Resource Centre (IDRC).

COMMISSIONING RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION GRANTS: TEAM AND LEADERSHIP GRANTS, KTE GRANTS

2. COMMISSIONING RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION GRANTS : TEAM AND LEADERSHIP GRANTS, KTE GRANTS

The granting process includes developing a request for proposals that sufficiently reflects the intention of the program, making decisions about the process of selecting grants, undertaking those processes as intended, and in some cases, providing support throughout the process. There are three types of grants; team grants are aimed at teams of North South researchers and research users, leadership grants are intended to provide career development support to emerging LMIC health leaders and KTE grants are intended to facilitate and improve the knowledge transfer and exchange components of selected team grants and leadership awards.

NORTH-SOUTH RESEARCHERS AND KNOWLEDGE USERS RESPOND TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

3. NORTH-SOUTH RESEARCHERS AND KNOWLEDGE USERS RESPOND TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Team Grants researchers represent host institutions from Canada as well as one or more low to middle income countries. The aim is that, by developing an international multi disciplinary team, they will have the combined expertise needed to address the global health issue at hand. Decision-makers/research-users are involved at the outset, in applying for team grants and throughout the research process. Applicants for Global Health Leadership Awards identify key elements necessary for their career advancements in global health research and outline a

four-year plan (the duration of the award) to help them advance their careers as national leaders in global health research. Submitting the proposal involves, compiling the existing evidence base, developing a research plan and selecting suitable methods for research, capacity building and knowledge translation.

MERIT REVIEW

4. MERIT REVIEW

All applications were reviewed in relation to established criteria. Review teams are multi-disciplinary and have researchers from both the North and South. Criteria includes the relevance and potential impact of the research, collaboration and capacity building efforts and research to action, more specifically, evidence that potential knowledge users are significantly involved in the research process.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

Implementation includes activities that can fall roughly into two categories – research and capacity building. Both research and capacity building activities vary in approach, method, and field of interest based on the grant, and in some cases, overlap or occur simultaneously. Research activities include developing a consensus regarding key health challenges in the LMICs in question, interests and expectations of researchers and research users and developing strategies for consensus building among all members of the research team, including research users and researchers. Capacity building activities can include mentorship, institutional infrastructure development, establishing new academic programs and providing training. Research activities can encompass a range of approaches and methods.

BUILDING TEAMS: INITIAL RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

6. BUILDING TEAMS: INITIAL RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Although the range of research and capacity building activities varies widely among grant recipients, there are defining features within each type of Teasdale Corti grant. For example, the team grants includes the equitable involvement of a range of team members including researchers from different disciplines and research users, as well as the equitable involvement of researchers from the North and South. Although the teams of researchers from Canada and LMICs have been planned out at the proposal stage, the relationships are developed or further strengthened once the implementation of the projects is underway.

7. RESEARCH, CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION PROCESSES AND OUTPUTS

RESEARCH, CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION PROCESSES AND OUTPUTS

Research, capacity building and knowledge translation activities are carried out in accordance with the proposals and project plans or in response to new and emerging challenges. These activities will foster the engagement of researchers and research users in the research, policy or intervention development process. Cross-learning and mentorship will be facilitated between projects and country teams. Processes include building partnerships and networks among researchers, between researchers and the community, and addressing feedback from research users and the community where the research project was conducted. Research outputs may include submissions to scientific journals and conferences on preliminary research findings and capacity building outputs may include the development and delivery of an annual short course and weekly seminars regarding the health issue at hand.

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION: FOCUSED AND CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

8. KNOWLEDGE GENERATION: FOCUSED AND CROSS-CUTTING

One expected outcome of the Teasdale-Corti program is the creation of more LMIC relevant and responsive research. This includes not only high quality research, in terms of methods and rigour, but research which is linked to practice and therefore takes into account the context of where it is occurring. As a result, it is more relevant and responsive to the self-defined priorities and needs of LMIC countries.

Another outcome is the identification of cross-cutting themes across projects and synthesis of knowledge in accordance with these themes.

ENHANCED RESEARCH CAPACITY AND CAPACITY TO USE EVIDENCE

9. ENHANCED RESEARCH CAPACITY AND CAPACITY TO USE EVIDENCE

Through targeted capacity building activities and, in the case of team grants, the diverse make-up of the research teams, it is expected that research capacities will develop. This enhances the likelihood of more sustainable health research in the future. The aim is also to enhance their ability and motivation to use evidence, whether it be to create effective programs or make recommendations to address

gaps in policies.

STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH RESEARCHERS

10. STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH RESEARCHERS

The research process includes various relationship building activities between researchers and research users from Canada and LMIC countries. Therefore in implementing the proposed program of work, it is expected that partnerships and collaborations will not only be created, but will be strengthened over time. This will result in researchers being more likely to connect with one another beyond the scope of the program, which may spark future research activities.

KNOWLEDGE USER ENABLED TO IMPLEMENT LEARNINGS

11. KNOWLEDGE USER ENABLED TO IMPLEMENT LEARNINGS

Knowledge users include health practitioners, civil society, and policy actors. Given that the research aims to address the policy and practices needs identified by knowledge users, it's important that they feel empowered to take advantage of the research.

ENABLED RESEARCHERS

12. ENABLED RESEARCHERS

Through carrying out multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research that is immediately taken up by knowledge users, researchers will be empowered to continue carrying out research that is useful to local program and policy leaders and makes a difference locally.

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

13. RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

Knowledge translation will take place through a variety of means including regional meetings, conferences and websites. Relevant findings will be shared not only with those who work in the same area but with colleagues from other disciplines and sectors in different levels of decision-making chains. Knowledge translation efforts will link research to policy and practice, and ensure that appropriate practical findings are implemented in a timely fashion to reach target populations.

ENHANCED SALIENCE OF RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL POLICY AND PRACTICE CONCERNS

14. GREATER AWARENESS OF SALIENCE OF RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL POLICY AND PRACTICE CONCERNS

As a result of research and capacity building activities, there is a shift in thinking amongst Teasdale-Corti researchers and knowledge users including academics, policy makers, health practitioners and civil society participants. This shift in thinking is in regards to the role of research in addressing global and local health challenges. Although different stakeholders may have different views regarding what actions need to be taken to address various health issues in different LMICs, there will be a collective understanding that research matters in the process. Once the relevance of research becoming increasingly recognized and appreciated, this may spark greater opportunities for an evidence based decision-making at the local level.

ENHANCED LOCAL FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

15. ENHANCED LOCAL FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Although there is infrastructure in place to support research activities, the research foundations will need to be further developed over time to support the future research process and sustained collaboration by researchers and knowledge users on the various research areas. Developments will need to take place beyond the scope of the Teasdale-Corti implementation. These efforts will also enhance the ability of researchers to be responsive over time to local research needs and context, and thus promote more effective research.

16. PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION: ALIGNMENT OF RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING WITH LOCAL POLICY AND PRACTICE NEEDS

PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION: ALIGNMENT OF RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING WITH LOCAL POLICY AND PRACTICE NEEDS

Relationships that are developed between researchers and knowledge users will facilitate and highlight the benefits of further collaboration when it comes time to align the research with local needs in LMICs. During the research process, various complexities emerge. As a result, the initial plan for research use which was developed at the proposal stage must be updated to address these complexities, such that research can be made useful.

MECHANISMS TO SUSTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND FOUNDATIONS

17. MECHANISMS TO SUSTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND FOUNDATIONS

In order for the research process to impact health outcomes in the long term, it's important that there's a planned approach to sustaining relationships and the environments which supported the research process. The expectation here is that this will spark collaboration on further research activities, beyond the scope of the Teasdale-Corti program.

18. LOCAL USE AND INFLUENCE
OF RESEARCH AND CAPACITY
BUILDING

LOCAL USE AND INFLUENCE OF RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The range of outcomes noted above are expected to produce research/capacity building that will be leveraged albeit at different timelines. Research use can be broadly conceptualized, and includes 'use' by various actors including government, civil society, the private sector and other researchers. The research can be used for various purposes, such as expanding knowledge in the field, mapping problems, developing and evaluating interventions for target populations, informing policy directly and influencing policy through advocacy.

STRENGTHENED HEALTH SYSTEMS AND ENHANCED HEALTH EQUITY

19. STRENGTHENED HEALTH
SYSTEMS AND ENHANCED HEALTH
EQUITY

The research use that occurs is expected to create a change in the health system of the LMIC country of interest. Changes in the health system are expected to cause an improvement in health equity, ultimately reducing the disparities in health within and between countries in a way that is sustainable.

There are various activities, which occurred simultaneously throughout the research process which contributed to the ability for research to be used to impact the health system. This includes activities aimed at generating knowledge, enhancing research capacity, strengthening relationships between researchers, and enabling both knowledge users and researchers.

In addition, health system improvement necessitates other inputs including the involvement of stakeholders within the health care system and a political climate which is conducive to change. As a result, the impact of this research process is one of many causal agents within a much broader process of health system change.

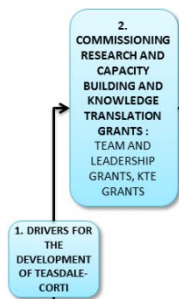
20. IMPROVED HEALTH

IMPROVED HEALTH

The ultimate aim of Teasdale Corti is to address pressing global health challenges in low to middle income countries. The program will be making a contribution amongst many other efforts to accomplish this task, and therefore the joint final outcome will be an improvement in the health status of various communities in low and middle income countries.

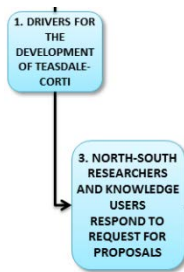
4. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING TEASDALE-CORTI THEORY OF CHANGE

The Teasdale-Corti is built on key assumptions which are implicit. The logic model helps to identify the assumptions and risks underlying the theory of change. Figure 4 describes a simplified logic model with risks and assumptions added to the program theory. In this section, we highlight some examples of assumptions and risks.



A. Drivers for the Development of Teasdale-Corti → Commissioning Research and Capacity Building and Knowledge Translation Grants: Team and Leadership Grants, KTE Grants

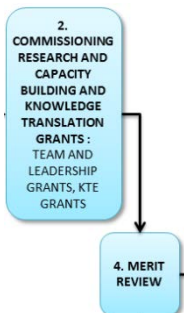
RISK - The existence of political or systemic limitations on how the identified problem can be addressed. For example, Canadian researchers may be required to be a component of the program, regardless of whether this is an appropriate response to the problem identified. This could prevent an optimal design for the program that affects its likelihood of success.



B. Drivers for the Development of Teasdale-Corti → North-South Researchers and Knowledge Users Respond to Request for Proposals

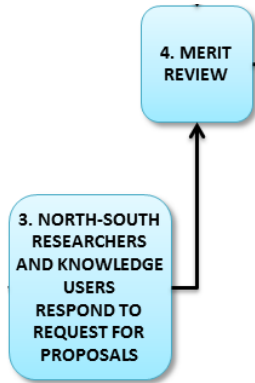
ASSUMPTION - The RFP is sufficiently disseminated to appropriate researchers and communities of knowledge users in Canada and internationally.

RISK – If requirements of the program are too intensive (e.g. require too many partnerships that can't be created/confirmed in the time frame allotted) then promising potential applicants may choose not to submit a proposal, or those selected cannot fulfill the commitments made in their proposal.



C. Commissioning Research and Capacity Building and Knowledge Translation Grants: Team and Leadership Grants, KTE Grants → Merit Review

RISK – If the process designed to select among the applications is not comprehensive, or lacks appropriate representation (including equitable involvement of research users, LMIC researchers, Canadian researchers and relevant, inter-disciplinary content experts) then sub-optimal research proposals will be selected.



D. North-South Researchers and Knowledge Users Respond to Request for Proposals → Merit Review

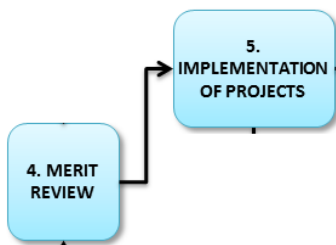
ASSUMPTION - The problems that have been identified in research proposals are sufficiently comprehensive (i.e. the problem space has been well characterized).

ASSUMPTION - Health problems affecting the most marginalized are being addressed in proposals.

ASSUMPTION – Merit review includes values which are important to low and middle income countries.

ASSUMPTION – There are knowledge users/policy-makers/practitioners who are interested in partnering with researchers in their own country and in Canada.

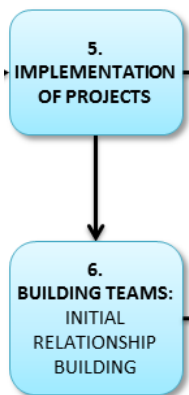
RISK - Adequate proposals are not received. This could be for many reasons including political or systemic limitations faced by applicants about the types of research that can be proposed and undertaken.



E. Merit Review → Implementation of Projects

ASSUMPTION - The recipients of the grants are well prepared to manage the grants, and the resources and support provided by the TC program are sufficient to undertake the activities as proposed and as required by the program.

Risk – Upon implementation, grantees may experience challenges/require more resources which aren't available to them, or are unable to deal with/manage the resources given to them (grant size too large)

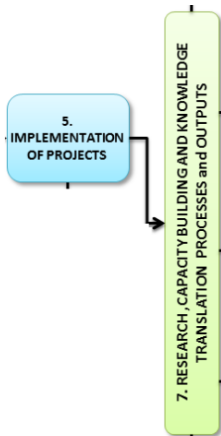


F. Implementation of Projects → Building Teams: Initial Relationship Building

RISK - Disagreement on the final outcomes of the research, its design, and roles and responsibilities of members of the research team, which can affect the relationship of team members and the outcomes of the research process.

RISK – Tensions build between north and south researchers as a result of variations in approaches to priorities, research process, ethics ...

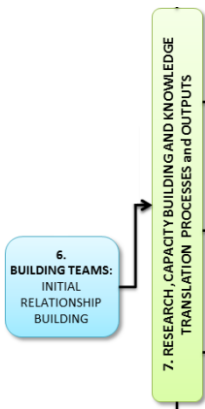
RISK – The pressure of completing deliverables of projects within a certain time frame may hinder the process of developing relationships.



G. Implementation of Projects → Research, Capacity Building and Knowledge Translation Processes and Outputs

ASSUMPTION: The time frame of the projects was sufficient to lead to research, capacity building and knowledge translation outputs.

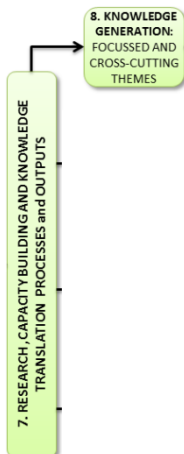
RISK - Those included in the research proposal may not be appropriate for the research project. Furthermore, the program requirements may be too intensive, making it challenging for research users to be involved in a meaningful way.



H. Building Teams: Initial Relationship Building → Research, Capacity Building and Knowledge Translation Processes and Outputs

ASSUMPTION – There is strong leadership on the team such that all team members are sufficiently committed, on track and on budget to the project to carry out intended activities and research.

RISK - Critical team members may leave the project before completion (as they take up new positions, for example), jeopardizing continuity of the research.



I. Research, Capacity Building and Knowledge Translation Processes and Outputs → Knowledge Generation: Focused and Cross-Cutting Themes

RISK –Knowledge translation is trumped by knowledge generation as the primary purpose of the Teasdale-Corti grant, and is left as a latter stage in the process, making it more likely to be confused with dissemination.

RISK - Upon implementation, the focus on publishing in adjudicated literature trumps the need for outputs that are more geared towards decision-making rather than publishing, which can cause tensions to surface.

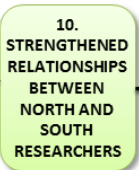


J. Research, Capacity Building and Knowledge Translation Processes and Outputs → Enhanced Research Capacity and Capacity to Use Evidence

ASSUMPTION - Research activities are resisted by political challenges of LMIC countries, which would limit the ability for evidence to be used.

RISK - The program requirements are too stringent or bureaucratic reporting requirements hamper capacity building efforts.

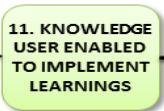
RISK – Research process is driven by a pressure to create outputs and as a result, the research process is not responsive to local needs.



K. Research, Capacity Building and Knowledge Translation Processes and Outputs → Strengthened Relationships between North and South Researchers

ASSUMPTION - The design of the TC team grants specifies a specific research process whereby research users and Canadian and LMIC researchers from various disciplines collaborate with the intention of creating equitable research relationships. There is an assumption that this requirement will foster equitable relationships.

RISK – Various factors can contribute to inequitable relationships including an unequal distribution of funds, the stature of Canadian researchers and the historical and systematic embeddedness of inequity. . In addition, there is a risk that inclusion in the research project may be tokenistic, and simply fulfilling the requirement for funding. As such, unequal power can weaken relationships.



L. Research, Capacity Building and Knowledge Translation Processes and Outputs → Knowledge User Enabled to Implement Learnings

RISK – Knowledge users are perceived as not being at the “right” level of authority and influence. As such, knowledge users feel that their participation in the projects was tokenistic and don’t feel empowered or enabled to use research, which results in a high turnover rate.

7. RESEARCH, CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION PROCESSES and OUTPUTS

12. ENABLED RESEARCHERS

M. Research, Capacity Building and Knowledge Translation Processes and Outputs
→ Enabled Researchers

ASSUMPTION: Researchers remain motivated to learn and see value in working together

ASSUMPTION – Given the complexities that arise in the research process, the research produced is still relevant to researchers.

8. KNOWLEDGE GENERATION: FOCUSED AND CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

13. RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

N. Knowledge Generation: Focused and Cross-Cutting Themes → Research Dissemination

ASSUMPTION - Sufficient networks, capacities and resources exist to disseminate the research that is produced.

RISK – As a result of competing pressures, knowledge users either don't have the time or lack the authority needed to take actions needed such that research can be utilized in their work.

9. ENHANCED RESEARCH CAPACITY AND CAPACITY TO USE EVIDENCE

14. GREATER AWARENESS OF SALIENCE OF RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL POLICY AND PRACTICE CONCERNS

O. Enhanced Research Capacity and Capacity to Use Evidence → Enhanced Salience of Research and Capacity Building for Local Policy and Practice Concerns

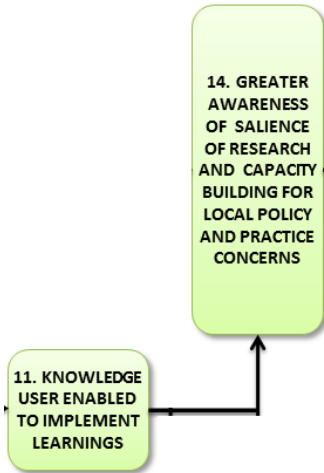
ASSUMPTION - Enhanced research capacity and capacity to use evidence leads to recognition that research and capacity building are salient to addressing local problems.

10. STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH RESEARCHERS

14. GREATER AWARENESS OF SALIENCE OF RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL POLICY AND PRACTICE CONCERNS

P. Strengthened Relationships between North and South Researchers → Enhanced Salience of Research and Capacity Building for Local Policy and Practice Concerns

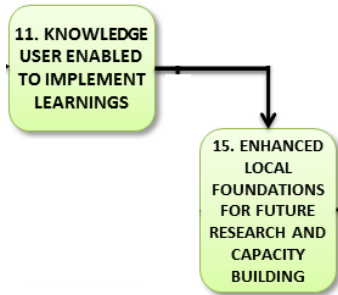
ASSUMPTION – Relationship building is key to understanding the relevance of research and capacity building to address local problems.



Q. Knowledge User Enabled to Implement Learnings → Enhanced Salience of Research and Capacity Building for Local Policy and Practice Concerns

ASSUMPTION - Knowledge users engagement in the process convinces them of the relevance of research and capacity building to address local problems.

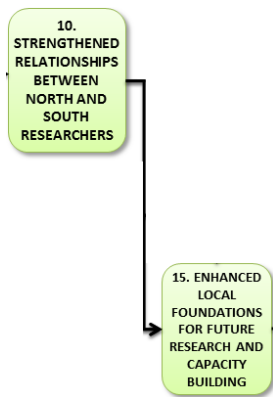
RISK – Knowledge users have too many constraints to implement learnings or encounter resistance for attempts to implement learnings.



R. Knowledge User Enabled to Implement Learnings → Enhanced Local Foundations for Future Research and Capacity Building

Knowledge users involvement in the Teasdale-Corti program will lead to a greater readiness and stronger infrastructure for future research and capacity building efforts.

RISK - Unequal power dynamics, which if felt by knowledge users, could detract from enthusiasm for similar research and capacity building experiences in the future.

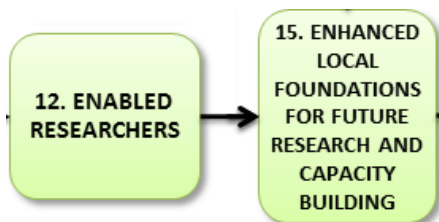


S. Strengthened Relationships between North and South Researchers → Enhanced Local Foundations for Future Research and Capacity Building

ASSUMPTION -

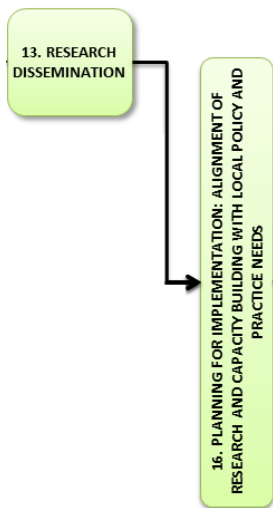
Enhanced relationships between North and South researchers create opportunities for enhanced infrastructure and capacity for research projects.

RISK - Asymmetrical power relationships between North and South researchers may diminish the propensity for creating a sustainable and genuine research and capacity building foundation.



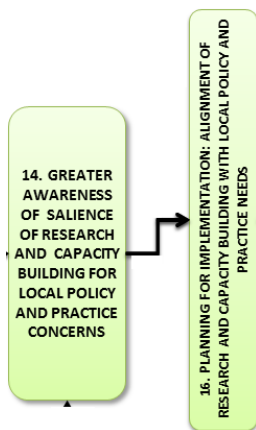
T. Enabled Researchers → Enhanced Local Foundations for Future Research and Capacity Building

RISK - The process of working together on a research process may be so stressful or resource intensive that it can serve to weaken or break down new or existing research collaborations.



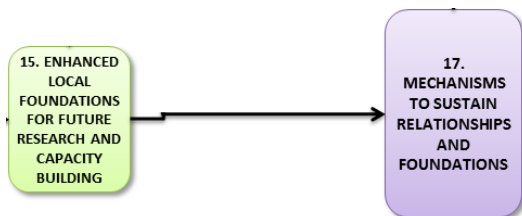
U. Research Dissemination → Planning for Implementation: Alignment of Research Capacity Building with Local Policy and Practice Needs

ASSUMPTION - The dissemination of specific research results leads to plans for action to address local policy and practice needs.



V. Enhanced Salience of Research and Capacity Building for Local Policy and Practice Concerns → Planning for Implementation: Alignment of Research Capacity Building with Local Policy and Practice Needs

ASSUMPTION – Enhanced awareness of research results and capacity building processes leads to specific plans to use results and leverage capacity building processes.



X. Enhanced Local Foundations for Future Research and Capacity Building → Mechanisms to Sustain Relationships and Foundations

ASSUMPTION – A mechanism is in place to build on gains from Teasdale-Corti in future relationships.



Z. Planning for Implementation: Alignment of Research Capacity Building with Local Policy and Practice Needs → Local Use and Influence of Research and Capacity Building

ASSUMPTION – Planning for implementation leads to concrete research use to address specific local problems.

There exist resources and a functioning system in place to take action on research findings.

RISK - If research findings are politically unpalatable or not a priority, they risk not being used to their full capacity.



AA. Local Use and Influence of Research and Capacity Building → Strengthened Health Systems and Enhanced Health Equity

ASSUMPTION – The research helps highlight solutions for those who are disadvantaged or need it the most.

ASSUMPTION – There are adequate resources to enable the research is used over the necessary timeframe, such that impacts of the research can be seen.

RISK - There are a number of ways that research can be used, some of which will not affect the health system directly, visibly, within an expected time period, or at all.

RISK - There may be unintended negative consequences even if intentions to improve health equity are genuine.



BB. Strengthened Health Systems and Enhanced Health Equity → Improved Health

ASSUMPTION - The type of impact that the research has on the health system will be sustainable and will affect the health of individuals, population and the poorest.

RISK - If some or significant parts of the population are outside the health system, the benefits may not reach those people., who may likely be the ones who need it the most.



CC. Mechanisms to Sustain Relationships and Foundations → Strengthened Health Systems and Enhanced Health Equity

RISK- Commitment to sustainable relations is dependent on individual researchers or knowledge users, who may not remain in their positions beyond the current political cycle. Sustainability could thus be compromised by lack of continuity at leadership levels.

5. DATA COLLECTION

The Teasdale-Corti theory of change will be explored through various data collection methods, many of which have been referenced in other sections. The evaluation will include a realist synthesis, a document review, bibliometric analysis, focus groups, interviews, surveys site visits, and case studies. The following table outlines a description of data collection methods.

Data Collection	Description of Data Collection
Document review	<p>The three components of the document review, include reviews of Teasdale Corti team grant proposals, review of corresponding final reports and a review of the programs’ monitoring data. Grant proposals will be analyzed based on nine dimensions, including LMIC priorities, designing useful research, promoting research use, potential for useful capacity building, engagement/collaboration, equity, sustainability, timeline of impact and coherence. The review of final reports will explore the processes and outcomes of the team grants as implemented. The proposal and final reports reviews will be aligned in many respects, but go beyond basic accountability-driven comparisons. Monitoring data, this will provide critical insight into the implementation of Teasdale-Corti, as well as insight into how program and project activities impacted research outcomes and research use.</p>
Bibliometric analysis	<p>A bibliometric analysis will be undertaken to explore a number of dimensions of the research outputs of Teasdale-Corti, including the volume, impact, accessibility, and quality research outputs, equity in research, cross-project learning, LMIC priorities and the timeline of impact (sample measures can be found in the Appendix). It is not expected that this data will provide a complete picture of research outputs and the analysis will take into account the recent completion of many of the grants.</p>
Interviews, focus groups, surveys with grant recipients (researchers & research users)	<p><i>Interviews and Focus Groups with Canadian and LMIC Researchers</i></p> <p>Interviews and/or focus groups will be conducted with a select number of grant recipients, including both Canadian and LMIC researchers and research users. This will provide feedback on their experience of the granting and proposal development process, program activities as well as both capacity building and research project activities. It will also provide insight on key issues including LMIC priorities, the creation and promotion of useful research, collaboration and equity. Conducting interviews allows for an in-depth narrative that includes information about the experience and context, and the linkages between the</p>

	<p>two.</p> <p><i>Surveys with Canadian and LMIC Researchers</i></p> <p>Surveys will be sent to all grant recipients, including both Canadian and LMIC Co-Principal Investigators and research users within the research team. This will provide feedback on their experience of the granting and proposal development process, program activities as well as both capacity building and research project activities. It will also provide insight on key issues including LMIC priorities, the creation and promotion of useful research, collaboration and equity. Conducting surveys allows respondents to address a comprehensive range of issues relating to their experience in a uniform structure that maximizes the opportunity for comparison across grants.</p>
<p>Interviews, focus groups and surveys with research users/decision makers</p>	<p>Data collection at this stage will be specific to research users/decision makers who were not a part of the granting process, but were involved in project activities. Gathering information from these individuals will yield relevant information regarding the quality, usefulness and usability of the research produced, the value of engagement that may have occurred during the process of research production, and impact of any capacity building activities in which they participated. They can also provide feedback on other key issues of Teasdale-Corti.</p>
<p>Site visits</p>	<p>Two to three Teasdale-Corti grants will be selected for a site visit. The site visits enable access to a wide range of key informants that are otherwise difficult to access, providing an opportunity for key informant interviews as well as group discussion among project partners and participants. Visits will gather information on the challenges of implementation, shed light on the program theory as well as learning opportunities, as well as provide a greater understanding of contextual issues related to Teasdale-Corti. Site visits are also critical in developing rigorous case studies, particularly as the program is taking place in multiple sites and implementation varies across grants.</p>
<p>Case studies</p>	<p>Informed by a number of data collection methods above, 2-3 case studies of Teasdale-Corti grants will be developed. This will allow for a detailed analysis of the experience of a few grantees connected to rich contextual information. The case studies will be used to extract insights to inform the theory of change and answer evaluation questions.</p>

6. KEY NEXT STEPS

This theory of change report has served to highlight how Teasdale-Corti is hypothesized to work. The theory of change needs to be complemented with a monitoring and evaluation design that can test and clarify if Teasdale-Corti actually works the way it was intended to work.

Key next steps include:

Activities	Time frame
Based on feedback from IDRC refresh the Teasdale-Corti evaluation website;	Now to August 11 th 2012
Based on information received from IDRC, incorporate bibliometric data in the testing and refinement of the theory of change	Now to September 15 th 2012
Develop criteria to explore proposals	Now to August 17 th 2012
Develop surveys for grantees	Now to August 10 th 2012
Develop criteria to explore final reports	Now to August 31 st 2012
Selection of case study sites	Now to August 24 th 2012
Learn about the monitoring system	Now to August 24 th 2012
Video Interviews with Grantees at the Grantee meeting	October 2-4 th 2012
Realist Synthesis	August –October 2012
Interviews with funders	August-September 2012
Case Studies	August-November 2012
Surveys of Team and Leadership Grants	August – September 2012
Final Report	End of November 2012